



## Section 5: Program Partners

### Getting Involved:

## National Association of Social Workers and National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

### What is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services is launching an annual national initiative called "National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day." National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is designated as a day in May of each year to coincide with "May Is Mental Health Month." This day presents an opportunity for SAMHSA and children's mental health initiatives to promote resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families.

The theme of the inaugural celebration of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is "Thriving in the Community." Children's mental health initiatives will hold similar events and other activities throughout the country to build awareness that children's mental health needs are real and that progress is being made toward developing effective strategies for achieving the vision of a life in the community for everyone.

### Why is the National Association of Social Workers participating in National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day offers the National Association of Social Workers an opportunity to educate our members, consumers, and national partners about the policy and practice issues for children with mental health needs.

### How can the National Association of Social Workers' members get involved?

Members can become involved in National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in several ways. For instance, host a legislative briefing to educate your public officials about the mental health needs of children; host an event to recognize innovative practices in your community and invite the media; or publish best practice information in journals, reports, and other avenues.

### Where can I get more information about National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

Information and materials on National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day are available online at [www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov](http://www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov). You can also call 202-408-8600 for more information.